

LAKE WASHINGTON/CEDAR/SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8) STEERING COMMITTEE



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Northwest Marine Trade Association
Save Lake Sammamish
Sustainable Fisheries Foundation
Trout Unlimited

US Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
King Conservation District

August 2002



Dear Salmon Conservation Partner:

As Co-Chairs of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Steering Committee, we are pleased to present recommendations expected to help restore and protect habitat for chinook salmon, which were listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in March 1999. The attached *Near-Term Action Agenda for Salmon Habitat Conservation* is the result of more than a year of collaborative discussions among elected officials, jurisdictional staff, business and environmental groups, scientists, and concerned citizens. The *Action Agenda* offers guidance to local governments, interested organizations, and citizens on interim measures that can be undertaken while we work on a long-term conservation plan for our watershed.

The options offered in this document focus on the issue over which local governments have authority: habitat. However, loss and degradation of habitat is only one of many factors contributing to the decline of salmon. Other factors, such as hatchery management and harvesting, are being addressed in other forums.

The *Action Agenda* is based on our current scientific understanding of the watershed. However, our knowledge of the complex ecosystem upon which salmon rely is still evolving and will continue to progress over the next few years as we develop the long-term conservation plan.

Please note that the *Action Agenda* provides guidance and is not law. Each jurisdiction or agency can choose to adopt or implement any of the recommendations according to their normal processes, including providing additional opportunities for public input. Citizens, businesses, and non-profit organizations may undertake some of the actions.

Much progress in salmon conservation is already under way in WRIA 8, such as the installment of smolt slides at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, preservation of the “best remaining places” for chinook in the lower Cedar River and Bear Creek systems, protection and restoration of riparian habitat throughout the watershed, and completion of critical research that has improved our understanding of how salmon utilize the watershed. However, much remains to be done. Salmon conservation requires a long-term commitment on the part of all residents of the watershed as well as leadership from local jurisdictions.

On behalf of the WRIA 8 Steering Committee, we strongly encourage everyone interested in salmon conservation to take appropriate actions such as those recommended in the *Action Agenda*.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Margaret Pageler
City of Seattle
WRIA 8 Steering Committee Co-Chair

Councilman Larry Phillips
King County
WRIA 8 Steering Committee Co-Chair

Financial support provided by the signers of the interlocal agreement to cost-share watershed planning in WRIA 8: Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Edmonds, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, King County, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snohomish County, Woodinville and Yarrow Point

LAKE WASHINGTON / CEDAR / SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8) FORUM



August 2002



Beaux Arts Village

Bellevue

Bothell

Clyde Hill

Edmonds

Hunts Point

Issaquah

Kenmore

Kent

King County

Kirkland

Lake Forest Park

Maple Valley

Medina

Mercer Island

Mill Creek

Mountlake Terrace

Mukilteo

Newcastle

Redmond

Renton

Sammamish

Seattle

Shoreline

Snohomish County

Woodinville

Yarrow Point

Dear Salmon Supporter:

On behalf of 27 local governments in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed, I am pleased to share with you this *Near-Term Action Agenda for Salmon Conservation*. The *Action Agenda* offers a menu of conservation opportunities for jurisdictions, organizations, businesses, and citizens to consider as we continue to work together to protect and restore habitat for chinook and other salmon in our shared watershed.

Early last year, 25 cities and 2 counties signed an interlocal agreement to jointly fund a planning effort designed to conserve salmon habitat along our common waterways. Elected officials representing each of the participating jurisdictions have come together as a Forum that oversees this cooperative effort.

Scientists, citizens, agency representatives, businesses, environmental groups, political leaders, and jurisdictional staff have been working together for several years to further our collective knowledge to benefit chinook and other salmon. Through interjurisdictional efforts, we have already completed an inventory of current conditions in the watershed. In this *Action Agenda*, we are proposing a set of voluntary actions that can be taken to help salmon. It is up to each local jurisdiction to determine whether to implement this guidance and how to do so. In addition, we have also included a variety of recommendations that interested organizations, businesses, and citizens may choose to undertake to benefit salmon.

The next step in the salmon habitat conservation process is to develop a long-term plan that will incorporate the scientific and other data currently being collected and analyzed. This plan is expected to be finalized in 2005.

I look forward to working with you to continue our collaborative efforts to improve the watershed shared by both salmon and our citizens.

Sincerely,

Larry Springer
Mayor, City of Kirkland

Chair, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Forum

Quick Road Map Through This Document

If You Want To:	Check Here:	Other Related Information:
See how the document is organized	This road map and the Table of Contents	Organization section at the end of Chapter 1
Understand the WRIA 8 salmon habitat conservation process and the purpose of and context for the Action Agenda	Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Near-Term Strategy Appendix C: Legal Drivers for Salmon Conservation Planning in WRIA 8	For more details on the conditions of salmon habitat in the watershed, see the <i>Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Limiting Factors Report for the Cedar-Sammamish Basin</i> (Washington State Conservation Commission 2001)
Obtain guidance for selecting, planning, and implementing salmon habitat conservation projects not listed in the Action Agenda	Chapter 3: General Action Guidance	Action alternatives tables in Chapter 4; guiding principles and the near-term strategy in Chapter 2
Choose a site-specific project to protect, restore, or enhance salmon habitat	Chapter 4: Project and Research Recommendations Specific to Subareas	Criteria for selecting projects in Chapter 3; guiding principles in Chapter 2
Review and update local land use policies and regulations to benefit salmon	Chapter 5: Regulatory and Policy Recommendations	General action guidance in Chapter 3; resource list of example ordinances and publications in Chapter 8
Carry out public education, outreach, and involvement activities to raise awareness of salmon habitat conservation	Chapter 6: Education and Public Involvement	Funding sources at the end of Chapter 8
Conduct research and monitoring and then modify actions based on the results	Chapter 7: Adaptive Management, Monitoring, and Research	Specific research projects recommended in Chapter 4
Review funding sources available to implement the Action Agenda's recommendations	Chapter 8: Implementation Resources, Table 8-1	
Find out how the Action Agenda relates to other salmon conservation efforts	Appendix A: Evolution of WRIA 8 Watershed Planning Appendix B: WRIA 8 Salmon Conservation: How It Fits in with Related Efforts	
Learn the meaning of technical terms found in the Action Agenda	Chapter 11: Glossary	
Review maps of the watershed and subareas	Chapter 1: Watershed maps are located at the end of the chapter Chapter 4: Subarea maps are located at the end of each subarea section	
Review who participated in the development of the Action Agenda	Chapter 9: Acknowledgements	Discussion of the planning process in Chapter 1

Notes: The terms Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed and Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 are used interchangeably in this document.

The website address for the watershed-based salmon conservation planning effort in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed is <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8>.

Contents

Quick Road Map Through This Document.....	i
Executive Summary	xi
Chapter 1. Introduction.....	1-1
Background.....	1-1
A Note on Watershed Names	1-2
Purpose of the Action Agenda	1-2
The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed – History and Geography	1-3
History.....	1-3
Geography.....	1-5
Watershed-Based Salmon Conservation Planning – Context and Process.....	1-6
Legal Context.....	1-6
Planning Process	1-6
Organization of the Action Agenda	1-9
Chapter 2. Near-Term Strategy.....	2-1
Background and Context of Chapter	2-1
Scientific Basis of the Strategy.....	2-2
Factors of Decline	2-2
Ecosystem Objectives	2-2
Guiding Principles.....	2-3
Identification of Core and Satellite Production Subareas and Migratory and Rearing	
Corridors for Chinook Salmon Populations	2-4
Categories of Actions	2-7
General Action Guidance.....	2-7
Project and Research Recommendations Specific to Subareas.....	2-7
Regulatory and Policy Guidance.....	2-8
Education and Public Involvement	2-9
Research, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management.....	2-9
Chapter 3. General Action Guidance.....	3-1
Background and Context of Chapter	3-1
How to Use This Guidance	3-1
General Guidance by Factor of Decline	3-2
Fish Passage	3-2
Hydrology	3-3
Sediment Transport	3-3
Hydromodification	3-4

Table of Contents

Riparian Conditions	3-4
Water Quality	3-5
Non-Native Species.....	3-6
Criteria for Choosing Early Actions	3-6
Tier 1	3-6
Tier 2	3-7
Chapter 4. Project and Research Recommendations Specific to Subareas.....	4-1
Background and Context of Chapter	4-1
Recommendation for Subarea Stewards	4-2
How to Use the Project Recommendations	4-2
Role of Research in the Action Agenda	4-5
Nearshore/Estuary.....	4-6
Hiram M. Chittenden Locks	4-11
Ship Canal/Lake Union.....	4-14
Lake Washington	4-18
Lake Sammamish.....	4-24
Sammamish River.....	4-29
Cedar River and Chinook-Bearing Tributaries.....	4-37
Bear Creek and Chinook-Bearing Tributaries	4-46
Issaquah Creek and Chinook-Bearing Tributaries.....	4-51
Little Bear Creek.....	4-57
North Creek	4-64
Swamp Creek.....	4-70
Kelsey Creek.....	4-76
Chapter 5. Regulatory and Policy Recommendations	5-1
Background and Context of Chapter	5-1
Recommendations.....	5-2
Clearing and Grading	5-2
Fish Passage Barriers	5-3
Floodplain Alterations.....	5-3
Land Use	5-4
Retention of Large Woody Debris	5-4
Road Maintenance.....	5-5
Shoreline Modifications	5-5
Stormwater	5-6
Variances and Reasonable-Use Exceptions	5-6
Wetlands.....	5-7

Additional Issues to Address	5-7
Chapter 6. Education and Public Involvement	6-1
Background and Context of Chapter	6-1
The Public's Role in Salmon Conservation.....	6-1
Organization of Recommendations	6-2
Guidance for Selecting Recommendations.....	6-3
Incentive Programs to Reduce Impacts on Salmon Habitat	6-4
Incentives for Citizens.....	6-4
Incentives for Landowners.....	6-5
Incentives for Developers	6-5
Public Outreach, Education, and Involvement Recommendations	6-5
Chapter 7. Adaptive Management, Monitoring, and Research.....	7-1
Background and Context of Chapter	7-1
Research Needs.....	7-1
Monitoring Needs	7-3
Adaptive Management Programs and Strategies.....	7-3
General	7-5
Regulatory Programs.....	7-5
Compliance or Implementation Monitoring.....	7-6
Direct Effectiveness Monitoring	7-6
Measurable Outcomes	7-6
Tracking Successes and Sharing Information Gained from Implementing the Action Agenda.....	7-7
Chapter 8. Implementation Resources.....	8-1
Background and Context of Chapter	8-1
Resource List of Example Ordinances and Publications.....	8-1
Clearing and Grading	8-2
Fish Passage Barriers	8-2
Floodplain Alterations.....	8-3
Land Use	8-4
Retention of Large Woody Debris	8-4
Shoreline Modification.....	8-4
Stormwater	8-5
Wetlands.....	8-6
Other Models to Consider.....	8-6
Partnership Opportunities	8-7
Funding Sources	8-7

Table of Contents

Chapter 9. Acknowledgements	9-1
Chapter 10. Bibliography	10-1
Chapter 11. Glossary	11-1
Appendix A: Evolution of WRIA 8 Watershed-Based Planning.....	A-1
Appendix B: WRIA 8 Salmon Conservation Planning: How It Fits in with Related Efforts	B-1
Appendix C: Legal Drivers for Salmon Conservation Planning in WRIA 8	C-1

Tables

Table 2-1.	Factors of Decline in WRIA 8	2-2
Table 2-2.	Chinook Salmon Core and Satellite Designations of WRIA 8 Subareas.....	2-6
Table 2-3.	Migratory and Rearing Corridors in WRIA 8	2-6
Table 4-1.	Nearshore/Estuary Action Alternatives	4-7
Table 4-2.	Nearshore/Estuary Potential Projects	4-8
Table 4-3.	Nearshore/Estuary Research	4-9
Table 4-4.	Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Action Alternatives.....	4-12
Table 4-5.	Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Potential Projects	4-12
Table 4-6.	Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Research	4-13
Table 4-7.	Ship Canal/Lake Union Action Alternatives	4-15
Table 4-8.	Ship Canal/Lake Union Potential Projects.....	4-15
Table 4-9.	Ship Canal/Lake Union Research	4-16
Table 4-10.	Lake Washington Action Alternatives.....	4-19
Table 4-11.	Lake Washington Potential Projects	4-20
Table 4-12.	Lake Washington Research	4-21
Table 4-13.	Lake Sammamish Action Alternatives	4-25
Table 4-14.	Lake Sammamish Potential Projects.....	4-26
Table 4-15.	Lake Sammamish Research	4-26
Table 4-16.	Sammamish River Action Alternatives	4-30
Table 4-17.	Sammamish River Potential Projects.....	4-32
Table 4-18.	Sammamish River Research	4-34
Table 4-19.	Cedar River Action Alternatives.....	4-38
Table 4-20.	Cedar River Potential Projects.....	4-40
Table 4-21.	Cedar River Research	4-42
Table 4-22.	Bear Creek Action Alternatives.....	4-47
Table 4-23.	Bear Creek Potential Projects	4-48
Table 4-24.	Bear Creek Research	4-49
Table 4-25.	Issaquah Creek Action Alternatives.....	4-52

Table of Contents

Table 4-26. Issaquah Creek Potential Projects	4-54
Table 4-27. Issaquah Creek Research	4-55
Table 4-28. Little Bear Creek Action Alternatives	4-58
Table 4-29. Little Bear Creek Potential Projects.....	4-60
Table 4-30. Little Bear Creek Research	4-62
Table 4-31. North Creek Action Alternatives	4-65
Table 4-32. North Creek Potential Projects.....	4-66
Table 4-33. North Creek Research	4-68
Table 4-34. Swamp Creek Action Alternatives.....	4-71
Table 4-35. Swamp Creek Potential Projects.....	4-73
Table 4-36. Swamp Creek Research	4-74
Table 4-37. Kelsey Creek Action Alternatives	4-77
Table 4-38. Kelsey Creek Potential Projects	4-78
Table 4-39. Kelsey Creek Research	4-79
Table 8-1. Funding Sources	8-8

Figures

Figure 1. Process to Develop the Action Agenda	1-7
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Maps

Map 1.	Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed.....	1-11
Map 2.	WRIA 8 Projects Funded Through Regional Process.....	1-13
Map 3.	WRIA 8 Subareas and Urban Growth Area.....	4-3
Map 4.	Nearshore and Locks Subareas	4-10
Map 5.	Ship Canal/Lake Union Subarea	4-17
Map 6.	Lake Washington Subarea	4-23
Map 7.	Lake Sammamish Subarea	4-28
Map 8.	Sammamish River Subarea	4-36
Map 9a.	Cedar River Subarea – Lower.....	4-44
Map 9b.	Cedar River Subarea – Upper	4-45
Map 10.	Bear Creek Subarea.....	4-50
Map 11.	Issaquah Creek Subarea	4-56
Map 12.	Little Bear Creek Subarea	4-63
Map 13.	North Creek Subarea.....	4-69
Map 14.	Swamp Creek Subarea	4-75
Map 15.	Kelsey Creek Subarea	4-81

